

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 212000

EXDIS FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEAT TRIPOLI 1139 ACTION SECSTATE DATED AUG 17:

QTE:

S E C R E T TRIPOLI 1139

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SAUNDERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, LY, US

SUBJECT: NEXT STEPS IN US-LIBYAN DIALOGUE

REF: TRIPOLI 1138

1. IN LIGHT OF MY MEETING WITH LIBYAN CHARGE MADFAI AUG 16,
DURING WHICH HE CONVEYED QADHAFT'S DESIRE FOR IMPROVEMENT
OF US-LIBYAN RELATIONS, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR VIEWS RE WHAT
FURTHER STEPS WE AND THEY MIGHT NOW TAKE. GIVEN QADHAFT'S
RECORD, THERE ARE GROUNDS FOR SKEPTICISM RE HIS BASIC

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INTENTIONS. AT SAME TIME, HE SEEMS GENUINELY TO DESIRE A
BETTER BALANCED FOREIGN POLICY WITH A LESSENING DEPENDENCE
ON THE SOVIETS. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD TERRORISM HAS, WITH
EXPERIENCE, CHANGED, THOUGH NOT AS FAR AS WE MIGHT LIKE.
WE CANNOT EXPECT A MAJOR SHIFT IN HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD THE
ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE, BUT THE SIDE OF HIS NATURE WHICH
WANTS PEACE IN THE AREA MIGHT BE REINFORCED BY A

DIALOGUE THAT WOULD PLACE HIM EVENTUALLY AT ABOUT WHERE THE ALGERIANS ARE WITH: "WHATEVER THE PALESTINIANS WILL ACCEPT."

2. MADFAI, AND PRESUMABLY QADHAFI, DID NOT RAISE THE QUESTION OF THE BOEINGS. WE KNOW FROM OTHER SOURCES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS ISSUE IS CONSIDERED A WATERSHED IN US-LIBYAN RELATIONS. IF WE DENY THE CIVILIAN BOEINGS, WE WILL BE SEEN TO BE CLOSING THE DOOR TO A POSSIBLE DIALOGUE. IF A DECISION IS TAKEN TO PERMIT THE SALE TO GO AHEAD, WITH WHATEVER CONDITION RE USE WE MIGHT MAKE, I BELIEVE IT COULD BE USED TO OBTAIN FURTHER ASSURANCES REGARDING LIBYAN BEHAVIOR ON TERRORISM AND PERHAPS OTHER ISSUES. OF COURSE LIBYAN PERFORMANCE MIGHT NOT ALWAYS MATCH THEIR STATEMENTS, BUT A BEGINNING HAS TO BE MADE SOMEWHERE.

3. I THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT SOMETIME DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER WE BE IN A POSITION TO TELL THE LIBYANS THAT WE HAVE HEARD THEIR MESSAGE, AND, IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE THE DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TERRORISM, WE ARE PERMITTING THE SALE OF BOEINGS TO GO FORWARD.

EAGLETON UNQTE CHRISTOPHER

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